

David Holmes to Andrew Jackson, October 5, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

DAVID HOLMES TO JACKSON

Washington, M. T. , October 5, 1813.

Dear Sir , The present force in service on the eastern frontier may be estimated at about fourteen hundred men. It consists of the volunteers under Genl. Claiborne, about six hundred—the 3rd. U S Regiment commanded by Lt. Colo. Russell, the same number, and a battalion of well appointed Dragoons, consisting of four complete troops, which I had assembled after the news of the massacre at fort Mims reached this place. A part of the volunteers the whole of the 3rd. Regiment and the Dragoons are at Fort Stoddert. The two last mentioned corps marched from here on the 18th. ulto. At Fort St Stephens there are about two hundred men.

The settlers in the fork between the Tombigbee and Alabama, and most of the inhabitants east of Pearl river have abandoned their farms and fled to the different forts for protection. I am in hopes that the reinforcements of the 3rd. U S. Regt., and the Mississippi Dragoons will be enabled to drive the Indians from the settlements, and to protect the Country from further aggressions. When joined by your troops I shall rest satisfied as to the issue.¹ I will immediately write to Genl. Flournoy, and request him to instruct the contractors and Quartermasters to be prepared to afford every facility within their power.

¹ Governor Holmes refers to troops raised in Mississippi Territory who, with the 3rd Regiment of regulars, were sent to operate against the Creeks on the lower Alabama

Library of Congress

River. Their base of operations was Fort St. Stephens, on the Tombigbee, 120 miles north of Mobile, at the head of schooner navigation.